



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
Group Art Unit 3612

In re Patent Application of

Sven Hollenbeck et al.

Application No. 10/620,171

Confirmation No.: 9480

Filed: July 15, 2003

Examiner: Joseph Pape

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TOPS”

I, Diane L. Ruggiero, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.

Diane L. Ruggiero  
Signature

12/29/04  
Date of Signature

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.97(c)**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Examiner's attention is directed to the references that are listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. Citation of these references is respectfully requested. No concession is made that these documents are prior art, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to antedate the documents as may be appropriate.

Applicants confirm that no corresponding English patent or publication exists for any of the foreign patent references listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A, and that Applicants do not possess English translations thereof. Therefore, in order to provide concise explanations of relevance, Applicants submit herewith English language abstracts prepared by the European Patent Office for the following references: French Patent No. FR 2 695 081, German Patent No. DE 199 36 099, and German Patent No. DE 197 32 672. Further, as the EPO has not prepared an English abstract of German Patent No. 643 515, Applicants have prepared, and submit herewith, an English language summary of this reference to serve as a concise explanation of the relevance thereof.

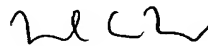
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Applicants wish to inform the Examiner that French Patent No. FR 2 695 081 was cited in the Search Report for corresponding European Patent Application No. 03 015 867 as an "X" reference. The European Examiner identified page 13, second paragraph, claims 13-15, and Figure 15 as all being relevant to claim 1 of the European patent application. Further, German Patent Nos. DE 199 36 099, DE 197 32 672, and 643 515 were each cited in a Search Report prepared by the German Patent Office for German Utility Model Application No. 202 10 763.9, upon which the present application claims priority. Each of these German references was identified as a "Y" reference with respect to claim 1 of the German utility model application. However, the German Patent Examiner did not identify specific portions of any of the three German patents as being particularly relevant.

Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-3080 with the \$180.00 fee required under 37 CFR §1.17(p) for submission of the present Information Disclosure Statement. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

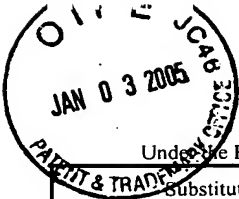
Respectfully submitted,



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Substitute of form 1449/PTO

Complete if Known

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Application Number	10/620,171
Filing Date	July 15, 2003
First Name Inventor	Sven Hollenbeck
Group Art Unit	3612
Examiner Name	Joseph Pape
Attorney Docket Number	016382-9001

Sheet 1 of 1

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	U.S. Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document
	6,325,446	Wuellrich et al.	12/4/2001
	6,270,143	Heselhaus et al.	8/7/2001

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials	Country Code	Foreign Patent Document Number	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document	Translation	English Abstract
	FR	2 695 081	Automobiles Peugeot and Automobiles Citroen	3/4/1994		X
	DE	199 36 099	Edscha Cabrio Verdecksysteme GmbH	2/8/2001		X
	DE	197 32 672	Ed. Scharwaechter GmbH	2/4/1999		X
	DE	643 515	Wilhelm Karmann	3/18/1937		X

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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